

STREET SMART

July 7, 2004

Governments
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Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

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■ SANBAG to launch traffic collision analysis system; six cities awarded supplemental hardware

As SANBAG prepares to launch a countywide information gathering and retrieval system for traffic accidents, the Board of Directors approved the award of computer hardware to six cities that applied for the items through the California Office of Traffic Safety.

OTS awarded a \$280,000 grant to SANBAG in 2002 to design and implement an effective, easily maintained system of traffic collision records for at least 20 cities in San Bernardino County. SANBAG recruited 24 jurisdictions to participate, and the system will be fully operational later this summer. Six cities submitted supplemental grant applications to OTS for plotters, supplies and other equipment. Chino, Highland, Grand Terrace, Upland, Yucca Valley and San Bernardino were awarded equipment totaling \$46,400, bringing the total grant amount to \$326,400.

In a public debut of the system on June 30, agencies saw the ease with which traffic collision data can be entered by law enforcement personnel and how this data can be sorted and analyzed dozens of ways.

SANBAG Data Program Administrator Ginger Ryba explained that the system will help city and county traffic engineers determine accident "hot-spots" and be better equipped to recommend how local funds are allocated for road safety. The goal, she said, is a long-term reduction in traffic collisions throughout the county.



Montclair City Engineer Michael Hudson, right, and staff Clay Jarvinen and Kathleen Gibson will be among those implementing the new GIS traffic collision system.

■ Early work to start on new westbound I-10 lane

Board members approved hiring Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade & Douglas to prepare the environmental document, preliminary engineering and project report for SANBAG's final Measure I "major project," a new westbound lane on Interstate 10 between Live Oak Canyon Road in Yucaipa and Ford Street in Redlands.

The \$913,000 contract will span 18 months. Because this early work has not started yet, it is not possible to estimate a beginning date for construction.

This additional lane will mirror the I-10 eastbound truck-climbing lane project that is now under construction. The westbound project is designed to provide traffic congestion relief to morning travelers.

■ Board elects Biane, Chastain to lead SANBAG for 2004-05

Second District Supervisor Paul Biane and Colton councilmember Kelly Chastain will serve as president and vice president of SANBAG's Board of Directors during the 2004-05 year.

Members thanked President Bill Alexander for his service during the past year and presented the gavel to Biane to begin his term.

Biane, who was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 2002, served as SANBAG's vice president and chaired the agency's Administrative Committee in 2003-04. The former two-term Rancho Cucamonga councilmember also serves as the county's representative to the Southern California Association of Governments and is former president of the Inland Empire League of Cities.



Paul Biane

His top goal this year as SANBAG president is to help secure the renewal of Measure I, San Bernardino County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.

Vice President Chastain has served on the Colton City Council since 1996. She chaired SANBAG's Major Projects Committee last year and chaired the Commuter Rail Committee in 2002-03.

Down the road ...

- July 14: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.; Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- July 16: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.

SANBAG Freeway Service Patrol marks six months

SANBAG continues to seek funding to expand service in county valley

Tow truck drivers have offered assistance to more than 2,000 motorists on Interstate 10 through Redlands and Yucaipa since the start of a new Freeway Service Patrol in January.

As the program marks the completion of its first six months of service, SANBAG also is following legislation that would provide equitable funding for expanding Freeway Service Patrol efforts in the valley region of San Bernardino County.

This month's issue of *Measuring Success* offers an update about the FSP, which is funded in part by Measure I, San Bernardino County's half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements.



Michelle Kirkhoff, director of air quality/mobility programs for SANBAG, reviews FSP statistics with Jay Ingley of Armada Towing.

- 132 out of gas
- 125 accidents
- 87 abandoned vehicles
- 78 instances of debris in the road
- 66 electrical problems
- 4 other problems

SANBAG expects the need for FSP aid to escalate this summer, as work on the I-10 eastbound truck-climbing lane project shifts to the freeway shoulder, eliminating room for disabled vehicles to park.

Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG's director of air quality/mobility programs, praised the service.

"During the first six months, the FSP has been extremely responsive to needs along the Interstate 10 construction zone. It's comforting to know that this free service is available to motorists," she said.

Freeway Service Patrol Goal

The Freeway Service Patrol is designed to aid stranded motorists as quickly as possible along this stretch of Interstate 10 that is under construction. SANBAG is working to add another eastbound lane to the freeway between Redlands and Yucaipa. By helping motorists who run out of gas, get a flat tire, have a mechanical breakdown or need other roadside service, the FSP helps clear the freeway quickly of vehicles, to avoid adding to traffic congestion in the area.

Freeway Service Patrol Goal

A total of 2,179 people have been offered free assistance by SANBAG's FSP since the service began on January 5. Although about 36 percent decline the help, 1,399 have been "rescued" by the two tow trucks and their friendly drivers that roam the I-10 corridor during morning and afternoon commute hours.

Brothers Joshua and Jason Pallas provide aid between 5 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, on the section of the freeway between California Street in Redlands and the San Bernardino/Riverside county line in Yucaipa.

Operating under the direction of SANBAG and the California Highway Patrol, the FSP drivers respond to stranded motorists that they observe on their route, as well as to service requests issued by the CHP. The majority of "assists" occur during the 3 p.m. hour, with flat tires the most common vehicular problem.

During the first six months, service calls have included:

- 367 flat tires
- 360 mechanical breakdowns
- 180 overheated vehicles

Bill supports FSP funding for SB County

Funding for a FSP in San Bernardino County may be on the way, following passage of Assembly Bill 2498 (Longville) by the Assembly Transportation Committee on May 25 and the Senate Transportation Committee on June 29.

The bill, which SANBAG has sponsored, next will be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 2. The legislation is designed to ensure that regional and local agencies that meet the qualifications for FSPs be eligible to participate, regardless of whether new funds are appropriated to the program.

Nineteen counties in California have FSP programs. SANBAG submitted an application to Caltrans in September 2003 to implement a full program but was denied, due to non-statutory guidelines that limit new entrants unless additional funding is added to the program. If the bill passes, SANBAG could implement an FSP to operate on the county's most congested freeways during peak travel times on I-10, I-15, Route 60 and I-215 in the San Bernardino Valley.

